

## What if I have questions about HIPAA?

If you have questions regarding HIPAA, you can contact the covered entity state agencies at the following telephone numbers:

**Department of Conservation**  
573-751-4115

**Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**  
573-751-3527

**Department of Health and Senior Services**  
573-751-6005

**Department of Mental Health**  
573-751-4122

**Department of Social Services**  
573-751-3229

**Department of Transportation**  
573-526-0138  
877-863-9406 (Toll free)

**Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan**  
573-751-8881  
800-487-0771 (Toll Free)

**Missouri Veterans Commission**  
573-751-3779

**health.mo.gov**

## Resources:

**HIPAA Administrative Simplification Statute and Rules**  
<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/index.html>

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights**  
<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html>

**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**  
<https://health.mo.gov/information/hipaa/>



**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**  
P.O. Box 570  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at 573-751-6005.

An EO/AA employer: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis. Individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have a speech disability can dial 711 or 1-800-735-2966.

# HIPAA

*Keeping it...*

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**What EVERY Missouri Legislator Needs to Know!**

In 1996, Congress passed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Public Law 104-191, to improve the health care system in the United States and to utilize efficiencies created through the use of electronic transactions.

To implement the statute, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has published a series of rules including:

- **Privacy Rule**  
Governing the confidentiality of protected health information.
- **Transactions and Code Set Rule**  
Governing the electronic transmission of health information and standardizing the billing codes for services.
- **Security Rule**  
Governing the security and confidentiality of health information in electronic form.
- **National Provider Identifier Rule**  
Establishing a system for uniquely identifying all covered health care providers.
- **The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act**  
Strengthens the privacy and security protections for health information established under HIPAA.
- **Enforcement Rule**  
Provides standards for the enforcement of all the Administrative Simplification Rules.

### **Who does HIPAA apply to?**

The HIPAA rules apply to individuals or organizations that are determined to be a “Covered Entity”. A covered entity must comply with the HIPAA rules/regulations. Many state departments/agencies in Missouri are covered entities (all or part of the department/agency).

## **Key HIPAA Terms**

### **Covered Entity**

A health plan, health care clearinghouse, or health care provider who transmits any health information in electronic form in connection with transactions for which HHS has adopted standards.

### **Protected Health Information (PHI)**

All individually identifiable health information held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associate, in any form or media, whether electronic, paper, or oral.

### **Public Health Authority**

An agency or authority of the United States, a State, a territory, a political subdivision of a State or territory, or an Indian tribe, or a person or entity acting under a grant of authority from or contract with such public agency, including the employees or agents of such public agency or its contractors or persons or entities to whom it has granted authority, that is responsible for public health matters as part of its official mandate.

### **Authorization**

Detailed document containing the required elements of the Privacy Rule, completed by the individual authorizing a covered entity to disclose specified protected health information to a third party for specified purposes.

### **How does HIPAA Directly Affect Missouri Legislators?**

One way that Missouri legislators might be affected by HIPAA is in the area of constituent services. For example, if a constituent asks you to look into the health care services he or she receives from a covered entity state agency, he or she will need to fill out a **HIPAA- compliant authorization form**. Without this authorization from the constituent, covered entity agencies may not be legally permitted to share protected health information about your constituent with you.

### **DHSS HIPAA Compliant Authorization**

form is available at: <https://health.mo.gov/information/hipaa/pdf/Authorization.pdf>

Contact the specific agency for assistance in obtaining and properly completing the authorization form.